

Longacre's Ledger

The Journal of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collector's Society

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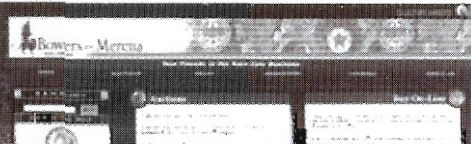
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The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society

Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to
James B. Longacre (1794-1869), with emphasis on his work as
Chief Engraver of the Mint (1844 - 1869) with a primary focus on his
Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.

Founded 1991

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Please help the editor in updating any errors or changes. If you would like to become a state representative (there can be more than one per state) please contact the editor.

On the cover...

Proof Indian Cents are a facinating and beautiful collection to pursue. Find out all the secrets to building a set in two featured articles by A. Ronald Sirna, Jr. - "Collecting Proof Indian Cents for Fun" and "A Date, Grade and Color Analysis of Proof indian Head Cents .

Image by Rick Snow.

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Submission guidelines

If you have a substantive article you would like to contribute, please follow these guidelines:

- ✓ If you have internet access, you can send text to the editor's E-mail address below. Unformatted text or MS word preferred.
- ✓ You may also send files and images on a 3.5" PC-formatted disk or CD-W disk to the Editors address below.
- ✓ Hard copies of the article and pictures may also be submitted.
- ✓ Images of materials can be made by the editor for use in the Journal. Please include the necessary return postage with the submission.
- ✓ Please feel free to contact the editor if you have any questions.

Submission deadlines

Please submit all articles, letters, columns, press releases, advertisements no later than the following dates to assure inclusion.

Issue	Deadline	Issue date
#55 2003 Vol. 13.1	February 15, 2003	March 2003
#56 2003 Vol. 13.2	May 15, 2003	June 2003
#57 2003 Vol. 13.3	August 15, 2003	September 2003
#58 2003 Vol. 12.4	November 15, 2003	December 2003

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Presidents Letter

Chris Pilliod



This is my 12th letter as president. On September 18th, 2002 our family welcomed Henry Christopher Pilliod to the world. Along with his two older brothers, Jackson and Ross, my wife and I can now officially say "My Three Sons". Like myself Henry was breach. Nowadays they have ultrasound and can turn the baby, put a large *velcro* strap around the mother and induce labor. This is preferred to a Caesarean and is exactly what happened for us. When I was born the doctor just grabbed me by the ankles and pulled me out. Everyone is home now, healthy and doing well. Being in the Pennsylvania Dutch country, part of the tradition is for friends and neighbors to bring by foods and desserts. Man, were we treated well. Chicken, homemade spaghetti, soups, quiche, and so on. Henry and I put on a lot of weight those first few weeks.

On to coins... while demand for aerospace metals is extremely weak here at the steel mill, the market for choice pieces of Indian cents and Flying Eagles as well as all denominations is very strong right now. A nice selection of Indian cents will be coming up at the FUN auction, and bidding is expected to be furious.

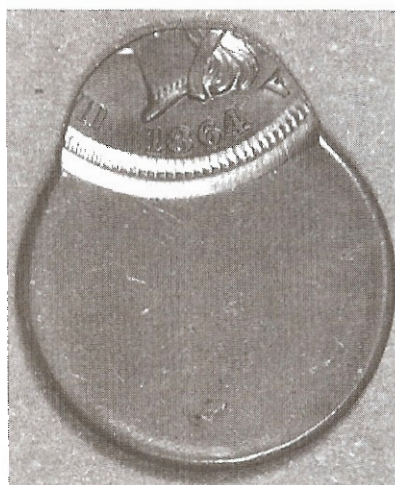
Last issue's Ledger featured an 1864 Bronze issue with concentric die lines on Miss Liberty. I had seen this phenomena before, and know of at least two different 1864 BRZ issues with similar lines. I then ruminated on an off-center 1864BRZ I had recently acquired. Ken Hill's photographs accompany this text. In fact this particular off center is one of my personal favorites. It is extremely far off center showing only the date, the neck of Miss Liberty and a couple of letters from the obverse legend. The reverse shows just the shield and a portion of the wreath. All told it is approximately 75% off center. In addition to this is the fact that it is a choice Mint State example, perhaps MS64RB. Finally another interesting aspect about this find is that it is the concentric die line obverse, showing very boldly on this example. My thinking on the cause of this phenomenon is along the veins of a couple other members.

Prior to any hubbing and with the die in the annealed (fully softened) condition a machinist at the Mint turns down its face, perhaps not perfectly flat but rather slightly coned to better welcome future hubbing. After machining the next operation for each die is a full polishing of the face to remove all the rough tooling lines. Except in 1864 a few dies missed this step. Why? Who knows? It's anyone's guess. The unpolished and heavily scored dies go on to hubbing, re-

annealing, then date placement, re-hubbing and thereafter a final heat treatment to harden the die for service. But there's one last step after final heat treatment and prior to service. A finishing polish is put on the die. This time around they didn't forget it. Does this explain everything we see on these 1864's? I think so. But a few questions remain.

Why doesn't the tonnage used for the hubbing fully obliterate the machining scores? Keep in mind the lines are in sunken into the die, raided on the coin. Imagine a freshly poured cement sidewalk that a child has just etched his or her initials into. Now try stomping on them to obliterate any trace—pretty difficult, hey?

Why do the lines stop at the fields and then pick up again on Miss Liberty? The key is the final polish the dies see prior to service. While a hubbing can not eradicate the die lines, a polish can. Polishing *removes* metal, hubbing *pushes* metal. And unlike a hubbing which affects the entire surface of the die a polish only affects the highest points, which is the field.



Ken Hill

Club articles. I would like to thank Don Haley for his patience on writing up his numismatic biography. Articles such as Don's make for enjoyable reading and if you know of anyone with an intriguing story, please feel free to write it up. If you need photography for an article you are working on, please contact Ken Hill. He has volunteered to do photography as long as they will be used for an article in the Ledger. He may be reached at:

Ken Hill
P.O. Box 18943
Seattle, WA 98118-0943

The club will pick up the costs other than your postal fees to get the coins to Ken. Ken is an original member who is retired in Seattle and has perfected his skills as a photographer. His prints are professional quality, as good if not better than the major auction houses.

If you would like to share any thoughts, my e-mail address is:
pilliod@enter.net

Announcements

1858/7 sells for a record price at Baltimore Show.

A rare 1858/7 Snow-1 early die state example graded MS65 by PCGS was sold by Rare Coin Wholesalers of Laguna Beach, CA to another dealer for "close to \$80,000".

All-Time Finest Collection of Proof Indian Cents to Anchor Heritage's FUN 2003 Auction

The current - and all-time - finest collection of Indian Cent Proofs on the PCGS Registry has been consigned to Heritage's Signature Sale taking place at the Jan. 2003 Orlando convention of the Florida United Numismatists. Assembled by an anonymous aficionado, this amazing collection is listed under the name "Newmismatist" on the PCGS Registry.

"With such a collection," noted Auction Director Bob Korver, "one astonishing statistic after another can be developed. Perhaps most significant is that the average weighted grade of the set is an astounding 67.33: as an average, this is almost unbelievable, but the specifics are just as amazing. It contains fourteen coins that PCGS has designated as Cameo or Deep Cameo (1860, 1862, 1863, 1864 CN, 1864 BR, 1866, 1869, 1871, 1874, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1880, 1888), and the 1864 Bronze certified by PCGS as PR64 DCAM is the only bronze coin of any date graded Deep Cameo by PCGS. Seven coins in the set are the finest known and unique in that grade (population 1/0): 1860 PR66 Cameo, 1864 No L PR64RD Deep Cameo, 1871 PR66 Red Cameo, 1876 PR65 Red Cameo, 1878 PR66 Red Cameo, 1880 PR65RD Cameo and the 1888 PR66 Red Cameo." Below is complete listing:

Date	Grade	Pop/Better
1859	PCGS PR66	18/1
1860	PCGS PR66-CAM	1/0
1861	PCGS PR65	10/1
1862	PCGS PR65-CAM	7/9
1863	PCGS PR66-CAM	2/0
1864 CN	PCGS PR65-DCAM	1/1
1864 No L	PCGS PR64RD-DCAM	1/0
1865	PCGS PR66RB	2/0
1866	PCGS PR65RD-CAM	2/2
1867	PCGS PR64RD	28/14
1868	PCGS PR65RB	32/4
1869	PCGS PR66RD-CAM	2/0
1870	PCGS PR64RD	24/24
1871	PCGS PR66RD-CAM	1/0
1872	PCGS PR66RB	3/0
1873	PCGS PR65RD	24/3
1874	PCGS PR65RD-CAM	2/1
1875	PCGS PR65RD	11/2
1876	PCGS PR65RD-CAM	1/0
1877	PCGS PR64RD-CAM	2/1

1878	PCGS PR66RD-CAM	1/0
1879	PCGS PR66RD	30/9
1880	PCGS PR65RD-CAM	1/0
1881	PCGS PR65RD	51/30
1882	PCGS PR65RD	14/14
1883	PCGS PR64RD	43/21
1884	PCGS PR67RB	14/1
1885	PCGS PR66RB	28/13
1886 T-1	PCGS PR65RD	18/10
1887	PCGS PR66RB	5/0
1888	PCGS PR66RD-CAM	1/0
1889	PCGS PR66RD	8/0
1890	PCGS PR65RB	16/1
1891	PCGS PR65RD	16/4
1892	PCGS PR66RD	12/2
1893	PCGS PR65RD	25/7
1894	PCGS PR65RD	24/9
1895	PCGS PR65RD	27/17
1896	PCGS PR66RB	4/0
1897	PCGS PR65RB	33/12
1898	PCGS PR66RB	7/2
1899	PCGS PR65RD	38/31
1900	PCGS PR65RB	35/5
1901	PCGS PR66RB	12/3
1902	PCGS PR66RB	10/0
1903	PCGS PR66RD	25/8
1904	PCGS PR66RD	5/1
1905	PCGS PR66RD	13/2
1906	PCGS PR66RD	16/4
1907	PCGS PR65RD	14/15
1908	PCGS PR66RB	7/0
1909	PCGS PR66RB	11/0

"The 'Newmismatist' Registry Set of Indian Head Proofs", added Heritage Executive VP Greg Rohan, "has so many highlights that it becomes a real challenge to pick out a mere handful, but my favorites include the well-matched 1869 PR66 Red Cameo, 1871 PR66 Red Cameo, 1878 PR66 Red Cameo, and an 1888 PR66 Red Cameo. The 'Newmismatist' Set joins another anchor for our FUN auction, the incredible collection of Gem Flying Eagle and Indian Head Cents, in Mint State and Proof, that was assembled by North Carolina collector Joseph P. Gorrell. These two sets complement each other nicely, and together ensure that every serious collector and dealer will need to be bidding at FUN. We are absolutely excited waiting to see the astonishing price records that will be established as the hammer falls in Orlando."

The collecting philosophy of the discerning numismatist who assembled the "Newmismatist" collection has always been: "1) buy the nicest coin you can afford; 2) buy the coin, not the plastic; and 3) go after the key dates FIRST, because once you've got those dates, the rest just requires patience in waiting for the right coin." Following these three 'simple' rules has resulted in the #1 All-Time PCGS Registry Set of Indian Cent Proofs.

The consignor has been collecting coins for more than fifty years. "I was 4 years old when my father got me interested. When I discovered that I could sell a Cent that I found in change for 25¢ or 50¢, I was hooked. When I went to the local coin shop, they had to give me a chair to stand on to be able to look at the coins! Over many decades, I started filling the holes in my album, and soon discovered that Uncs. looked the best. I started buying what I felt were the nicest coins for the assigned grade, and when I would see a really spectacular Red coin, I would buy it for my collection. I backed into the Registry pursuit because I had so many nice Indian Head proofs. I prefer to emphasize the joy of coin collecting, not what I've owned. Coin collecting to me is about collecting 'art,' and considerably more affordable! The real joy of coin collecting is the opportunity to actually hold a bit of history in your hand."

***Combined Gorrell & Newmismatist
PCGS proof Indian Head Cent
"Dream" Registry set***

With the Gorrell collection of proof Indian Head Cents and the Newmismatist collection of the current finest PCGS registry set now available in the Heritage FUN Signature sale in January, 2003, there is a rare opportunity to put together one of the finest PCGS Registry sets for proof Indian Head Cents that can possibly be assembled.

Here is the breakdown of putting together the finest PCGS proof Indian Head Cent Registry set from the best available examples of proof Indian Head Cents that could be assembled from these two offerings (In some instances the coins from each individual set are the identical grade, so either coin can be utilized, in other instances, the coins have different grades - 65RD or 66RB - but as they have the same point value, both coins are shown with the set provenance indicated for the respective coin):

Date	Grade	PCGS Pop	Weighted Grade	Collection
1859	PR66	18/1	66	Newmismatist
1860	PR66-CAM	1/0	69	Newmismatist
1861	PR66	2/0	66	Gorrell
1862	PR65-CAM	7/9	68	Newmismatist
1863	PR66-CAM	2/0	69	Newmismatist
1864CN	PR65-DCAM	1/1	69	Newmismatist
1864BR	PR64-DCAM	1/0	68	Newmismatist
1865	PR65RD	9/1	67	Gorrell
(Or)1865	PR66RB	2/0	67	Newmismatist
1866	PR65RD-CAM	2/2	68	Newmismatist
1867	PR65RD	18/3	67	Gorrell
1868	PR65RD	13/1	67	Gorrell
1869	PR66RD-CAM	2/0	69	Newmismatist
1870	PR65RD	20/4	67	Gorrell
1871	PR66RD-CAM	1/0	69	Newmismatist
1872	PR65RD	9/1	67	Gorrell
(Or)1872	PR66RB	3/0	67	Newmismatist
1873	PR66RD	3/0	68	Gorrell

1874	PR65RD-CAM	2/1	68	Newmismatist
1875	PR65RD	11/2	67	Newmismatist
1876	PR65RD-CAM	1/0	68	Newmismatist
1877	PR64RD-CAM	2/2	67	Newmismatist
1878	PR66RD-CAM	1/0	69	Newmismatist
1879	PR66RD	29/10	68	Newmismatist
1880	PR65RD-CAM	2/2	68	Newmismatist
1881	PR66RD	26/4	68	Gorrell
1882	PR65RD	14/14	67	Gorrell & Newmis.
1883	PR67RD	1/0	69	Gorrell
1884	PR67RB	14/1	68	Newmismatist
1885	PR65RD	17/11	67	Gorrell
(Or)1885	PR66RB	28/13	67	Newmismatist
1886	PR66RD	10/0	68	Gorrell
1887	PR65RD	8/2	67	Gorrell
(Or)1887	PR66RB	5/0	67	Newmismatist
1888	PR66RD-CAM	1/0	69	Newmismatist
1889	PR66RD	8/0	68	Gorrell & Newmis.
1890	PR65RD	16/2	67	Gorrell
1891	PR65RD	16/4	67	Gorrell & Newmis.
1892	PR66RD	12/2	68	Newmismatist
1893	PR65RD	25/7	67	Gorrell & Newmis.
1894	PR65RD	24/9	67	Gorrell & Newmis.
1895	PR66RD	14/3	68	Gorrell
1896	PR65RD	9/4	67	Gorrell
(or)1896	PR66RB	4/0	67	Newmismatist
1897	PR66RD	8/8	68	Gorrell
1898	PR67RD	8/0	69	Gorrell
1899	PR66RD	20/11	68	Gorrell
1900	PR65RB	35/5	66	Gorrell & Newmis.
1901	PR66RD	18/7	68	Gorrell
1902	PR66RD	24/9	68	Gorrell
1903	PR67RD	8/0	69	Gorrell
1904	PR66RD	5/1	68	Newmismatist
1905	PR66RD	13/2	68	Gorrell & Newmis.
1906	PR66RD	16/4	68	Newmismatist
1907	PR66RD	14/1	68	Gorrell
1908	PR65RD	29/12	67	Gorrell
(or)1908	PR66RB	7/0	67	Newmismatist
1909	PR65RD	24/15	67	Gorrell
(or)1909	PR66RB	11/0	67	Newmismatist

Utilizing the highest possible weighted grade point value coin from each set, the average weighted grade point value would be an astounding 67.63 for this set. This is less than 1 point from the Finest Possible Set Rating of 68.62 as indicated by PCGS on its Registry site! With the addition of the 1886 Type 2 PR-66RD and the 1864-L PR-64RB it is possible that some individual could assemble a complete variety proof set as well.

One caveat, though, is that the Gorrell coins have not been sent in to PCGS for the CAM designation, so it is important to actually look at the coins to build this dream set. Also, the rare 1864 With L Proof is available in this sale. Whenever a 64-L comes up for sale lately, it tends to go into some "black hole", never to be seen of again. So this is one date to fight for.

1869/69 Snow-3a - Is it Counterfeit?

By Rick Snow



1869/69 Snow-3a

In the September 2001 issue of Longacre's Ledger (Vol. 11.3, #49) my article, "The 1869/69 Snow-3" detailed the progression of the obverse die with its known reverse dies. I listed seven die pairings and listed them in the probable order of submission. It now appears that the first coin in the emission order may not have come from the Mint at all.

The coin was bought by a California dealer over five years ago. It looked slightly suspicious so he showed it to some other dealers in the hope of getting a consensus of opinion. Nothing was resolved at the time, and the dealer put the coin away as probably being counterfeit.

At one of the Long Beach shows last year I mentioned that I wanted to list counterfeits in the Longacre's Ledger. He said he had some real doozies. The 1869 S3 is one of these.

I initially thought that the coin was OK, since it was a known die pairing. It is the rare counterfeiter who takes the time to match known die pairs - they usually have a stock reverse which they pair willy-nilly with the available obverse dies.

At the ANA meeting, the dealer allowed Chris Pilliod to take the coin to get an elemental analysis done. The coin was sent in with other coins including a well known counterfeit, the 1873 Open 3 S6. The 1873 Open 3 S6 showed to be pure copper with a trace of Silicon and Aluminum. The 1869 S3a showed 94.2% Copper, 5.3% Tin, and 0.5% Silicon. With no Zinc present, the chance of it being real lessened considerably.

Flash! If this coin is counterfeit, then it makes perfect sense that all coins from this die pair are suspect. Going back to the September 2001 issue of Longacre's Ledger, page 13, I now notice that the coin pictured as S3a has some peculiar features. The obverse details have much less details than the



1869/69 Snow-3a. Rough die rust in N of ONE.



1869/69 Snow-3a. Shield area.

later die state pieces. On that piece the reverse showed a partial wire rim, which is a raised edge where the metal squeezed between the die and the collar. On the piece presented here the wire rim is on the obverse.

A word of caution is in order, lest you all start condemning any coin with a wire rim. Wire rims on their own are not a counterfeit diagnostic, but Indian Cents of this era do not usually show them.

I carefully compared the reverse images and found few smoking guns. No repeating damage - a sure sign of a counterfeit. If a mark was present on the host coin, it would be transferred to all the counterfeits as well. The host coin used to make the 1869 S-3a must have been pretty close to perfect.

The quality of the coin presented in September 2001 was in Mint State condition. If fake, it's a real quality job. The present coin is an obviously cleaned and recolored AU grade piece, which is the condition most counterfeits are found in.

The best diagnostic feature is the rough area in the N in ONE. It appears to be caused by a rust pitted die, but if it is in fact a counterfeit die, it could have been caused by an error in the transfer process. At this point there is still a chance that these are genuine, but only a very small chance. It will still be listed as Snow-3a in the soon to be released "Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide Vol. 2 1859-1869", however it will be listed as a probable counterfeit.



Fly-In Club Image Library

1869/69 Snow-3a Date area. Wire rim.



Fly-In Club Image Library

1869/69 Snow-3a Face area.

Altered 1856 Cents

By Rick Snow

Recently Steve Estes, a Portland, Oregon dealer donated three bogus cents to the Fly-In Club Counterfeit Library.

Thank you Steve.

Two of the coins are altered 1856 Flying Eagle Cents. I'll save the third one for the next issue of Longacre's Ledger.

These should not be too deceptive to anyone with enough knowledge to know that they want to own a real one.

The people who get stuck with these are the neophyte who, armed with a red book and not much else buys a "bargain" in an country antiques auction.

The first coin is obviously altered because the counterfeiter altered the coin from a 1858 Small Letter! The second coin is made from a Large Letter, but the shape of the date is wrong.



Fly-In Club Image Library



Fly-In Club Image Library

Collecting Proof Indian Head Cents for Fun.

By: A. Ronald Sirna, Jr.

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Proof Indian Head Cents represent a presently undervalued set of 19th century coins that can easily be collected with the possibility of completing a set of nice examples. The set consists of the regular issue dates from 1859 through 1909, a total of 52 coins. There are only two varieties - the 1886 type 2 and the ultra-rare 1864-L, and neither of these coins is required to complete the regular issue set. Although most of the dates have relatively small mintages, they are readily available in the market place. If you are a beginning collector, you can start a set with several of the more common dates (1879 - 1886 or 1898 - 1909) in near gem condition (Pr64RB), for under \$300 per coin.

If you have never collected proof coins there are certain basics that you should become familiar with. First, proof coins are made differently than regular issue mint coins issued for circulation. Each coin was struck on a polished planchet, and generally they were struck at a slower production rate with higher striking force, often with two blows from the press. Thus, the details of the coins are fully present, and the fields are fully mirrored. These coins represent the epitome of the engravers art - they look like what the engraver wanted the coins to look like. All of the details of the Indian Princesses' feathers are present, all of the diamonds in the ribbon are complete, the details on the reverse wreath are there, including the fine details of the acorns and the veins of the leaves. When compared to the average regular issue coins, proof Indian Head Cents are little works of art - they were intended for connoisseur collectors and sold to them by the Philadelphia Mint separate from the regular issue coins. Until the late 20th century, with rare exceptions, virtually all proof coins were struck only by the Philadelphia mint. They could be purchased individually, but they were generally purchased as part of a set of the minor proof coins - 1¢ through 5¢ pieces.

The second notable feature about proof Indian Head Cents is that they tone differently from regular issue cents. There are two separate metal compositions for the Indian Head Cent proofs. From 1859 to 1864, the composition was copper-nickel, (88% CU, 12% NI) which, when untoned, is a silvery white color. Commencing in 1864, the metal was changed to Bronze, a composition of copper, tin and zinc (95% CU, 5% tin & zinc). From the mint these coins were

often wrapped in tissue paper to protect them from handling marks and fingerprints - as they were not released into general circulation, this tissue paper caused them to acquire vibrant colors not seen on regular issue coins. On the bronze coins the colors range from mahogany cherry reds, to violets, indigo blues, greens, and even blushes of pink, yellow and gold. Very few of the mintages of Proof Indian Head Cents have survived with their original untoned color intact. Further, the variations of untoned examples, when found, range from a mellow pink copper color, to golden yellows and



Fly-In Club Image Library

cherry reds - these are the coins that the grading services label as "red", but often they are not red at all, but variations of the slightly different bronze alloys used by the mint during the 45 year production of the "copper" mintage of these coins. If you have access to the internet, I would suggest that you go to the WWW.INDIANHEADS.ORG web page and look at the wonderful variation of colors that Paul Houck has posted under the "tones" section of that website. Although the images are all mint state coins, you can see the variety of colors that make up the spectrum for Indian Head Cents - many of the examples are "untoned" examples of the various colors of the bronze alloy that were used by the mint during the 45 year period that these coins were produced.

The best way to familiarize yourself with the variety of colors of proof Indian Head Cents is to go to a coin show and ask to see any Indian Head proofs in the dealer's case and look at lots of coins before buying anything. As most of these coins are now over 100 years old, you will see coins ranging from a fully toned, dull brown coin to vibrant "reds" that can make your pulse race.

There are additional characteristics that you will also need to familiarize yourself with if you are collecting proof Indian Head Cents. Because of the highly mirrored surfaces, proof coins tend to accentuate any handling marks that have gotten onto the coins after they left the mint. Many proofs will exhibit hairlines from being "wiped" to remove dust or fingerprints from the coin. Spots, from flecks of dirt or fine droplets of water can form on the coins, and seriously impair the look (and value) of these coins. These defects are more manifest on proof coins than their regular issue counterparts. Finally, there are certain characteristics that exist only on proofs and not on regular issue coins. Often you will see what are known as "lint marks" on proof coins. When proof coins are made, the dies were cleaned before the striking process. A mint is a manufacturing facility - large production presses are utilized in the coinage process - they require grease and oil to function properly - they are dirty places. So for the proof production, the dies would be cleaned before the coins were struck - a cotton cloth would be used to wipe any residual dirt, oil or grease from the face of the dies - but small cotton fibers would often adhere to the face of the dies and then, when the first coins were struck after the dies had been wiped, the outline of the cotton fiber would be impressed right into the surface of the coin - a "lint mark". These minuscule cotton fibers would only last for one or two blows, and would disappear from subsequent striking - until the die face was again wiped and then they would again appear on random places on the surface of the struck coin. Lint marks are not generally considered defects on proof coins, but they can affect the grade and value of the coin if they are so obvious or in a location where they affect the "eye appeal" of the coin.

A second characteristic that can be seen on early 20th century proof Indian Head Cents is what is known as "die striations" or "die lines". At first glance, some proof Indian Head Cents made between 1903 and 1909 appear to have fine hairlines on either the obverse or reverse of the coin, and sometimes on both sides. Careful examination will reveal that these lines are fine parallel lines on the entire surface of the field and seem to actually run "under" the devices and lettering. In contrast, hairlines that occur after production of the coins are "broken up" by the lettering and devices - that is the hairlines can't usually run right to the very edge of the devices and lettering and then pick up again exactly at the opposite edge because the devices themselves create a "bridge" effect so that the "wipe effect" stops a little in front of the edge and then picks up a little further past the opposite edge as it continues across the coin. Although "die striations" or "die lines" have a similar appearance to hairlines, they should not affect the grade or value of the coin - but because of the similar look, coins with "die striations" or "die lines" are oftentimes mistakenly given a lower grade by the grading services because they are mistaken for hairlines. Two dates that often show these "die striations" or "die lines" are 1905 and 1907. When looking at these dates remember to account for this mint made characteristic. Once you've seen it, and contrasted it with post production hairlines, you will be on your way to acquiring a level of expertise needed to accurately grade proof Indian Head Cents.

In order to collect proof Indian Head Cents, there are three essential ingredients, without which you will not be able to complete a nice set of these beautiful coins: Knowledge, Grading and Value - with the last element being the easiest of the three if you have mastered the first of the two requirements.



Fly-In Club Image Library

Die striations appear and disappear depending on the angle of the light. The 1905 proof cent above is shown rotated with the same angle of the light source.

Knowledge: As part of your learning experience, buy books that provide information about Indian Head Cents. There are several excellent books that are currently available that will provide you with a wealth of information on Indian Head Cents. Two essential books are Q. David Bowers' "Enthusiat's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents" and Rick Snow's "Flying Eagle and Indian Cents Attribution Guide". The Bowers book is currently out of print, but may be reprinted in the near future. The Snow book is being published in 6 volumes, of which Vol. 1 and Vol. 6 are currently available.

Also, although I don't think I need to convince this audience, you should become a member of the Fly-In Club.

Second, you will need a working knowledge of the coins themselves - this can only be obtained by looking at lots of coins, asking questions, and making notes. Every reputable dealer that I have dealt with who sells Indian Head Cents will be pleased to share his or her knowledge of this collectable series. A caveat: When at a coin show, if there are 10 people all waiting to look at the dealer's coins, the dealer will be unable to answer a series of questions about the coins in general or a particular coin - wait to ask when there is time for a discussion - remember that the dealer at a coin show generally has substantial expenses to cover, please allow the dealer the opportunity to conduct his business - they will appreciate your courtesy. But, by all means, look at the coins and ask questions - that is how your knowledge and expertise will be acquired.

Grading: Learn how to grade coins - unfortunately, you cannot rely only on the grading services or even the dealers who sell you your coins - they make mistakes, and if you don't acquire your own working expertise of how to grade the coins of the series you want to collect, you will be at the mercy of the grading services or the seller of the coins and you will end up with their mistakes as part of your collection. Every collector that I know who has put together a great collection has made a concerted effort to learn how to grade the coins the he or she is collecting. In order to grade proof Indian Head Cents, there are again three essential ingredients: 1) The knowledge of the series that you have obtained. 2) A magnifying glass of the highest quality. 3) Light.

I've already discussed Knowledge above - in case I haven't made my point clear - You cannot put together a great collection of any coin series unless you have a good working knowledge of that series. You can spend lots of money, and you can buy lots of coins, but without that Knowledge you won't have a great collection. Besides - that's the joy of collecting - the knowledge that you acquire and can discuss with other collectors.

A Magnifying Glass: Buy the best quality magnifying glass you can afford - If you are buying \$5 coins, buy a cheap magnifying glass - it won't matter, but if you are buying \$500 coins, then you'd better buy a really good magnifying glass, and if you're spending thousands of dollars for your coins, buy the very best magnifying glass - it will save you thousands of dollars!! My two favorite magnifying glasses are both German made and excellent for coin collectors: A Zeiss 3/6/9 or an Eschenbach 3/6/9. What?!! - never heard of them? Well, let me explain - both of these wonderful loupes have a large viewing area, and both have three different lens powers that can be used separately or together. (And no, I don't have stock in either company and no, I don't sell them). These magnifying glasses have two separate lens: a 3 power lens and a 6 power lens - each can be used separate from the other, or they can be joined together to have a 9 power lens - so without changing loupes, you can use a low power to look for toning and hairlines, then a medium power for minor defects and finally a high power for alterations and hidden defects. Note, I am told that the grading services use a medium power lens (5x) for grading - the higher power lenses are used to check die characteristics and alterations - both for grade alteration or counterfeiting.

Light: In order to properly grade coins and to properly use a magnifying glass you must have a good light source, and you have to learn how to use the light source to grade coins. Have you ever been to a coin show and watched a dealer look at a coin, particularly those dealers who are known as "crack-out" experts? Before they even pick up their magnifying glass, they take the plastic slab hold it about 9-12 inches away and rotate the coin - left to right, up and down, side to side. Then they will put the coin under the ubiquitous light that they have at their table and do the same thing, and then they will pick up their magnifying glass and look at the coin under the light while again rotating the coin as they look. What they are doing is using two different light sources to look for defects in the coin (the "natural" ambient light in the room and an artificial light source). Light will reflect off of the marks and hairlines and they show up as the coin is rotated. Scratches, fingerprints, marks and alterations will show-up as different colorations and surface characteristics as the coin is rotated. The color of the coin will reflect back at the viewer. Light is essential to grade coins - in fact, without a good light source that is properly used, you cannot accurately grade coins. Another fact that many are either unaware of or they ignore, is the fact that different kinds of light will make the coin look different. Have you ever bought a coin at a coin show and when you got home it looked different? The reason it looks different is because at home you are almost invariably looking at the coin either in natural daylight (if the room you're in gets lots of sunlight and the lights are turned off) or incandescent light, which is the kind of lightbulb in most lamps. But at the show where you bought the coin, the lighting in the bourse was probably fluorescent ambient light from the ceiling fixtures and there is a good chance that the

dealer had a halogen light at his table, (in addition to the 60 Watt incandescent light that is invariably over the show-case). Different kinds of light make coins look different! You should learn what the various light sources do to the look of the coin - and they have different effects on different metals! Copper coins look quite different in different light sources. Fluorescent light makes them look ugly, halogen light gives them a brighter, but slightly washed out look, incandescent light is a "warmer" light source and brings out the "reds" more and natural light makes them look more "red-brown" than "red". So depending on your light source, your nice copper Indian Head Cent will probably look different at home than it did when you bought it - unless you duplicate the light conditions!

Value: Remember earlier that I said *Value* was the easiest of the three essential ingredients needed to complete a nice set of proof Indian Head Cents? It's true. Value is determined by three factors: Rarity, Grade and Demand. If you have acquired the Knowledge regarding this series, then you should know which of the dates are the rarities. If you have learned how to accurately Grade, you will be able to determine which coins are the nice examples. The Demand factor is the collector interest in the series and the desirability of the coin. The most common coin is readily available, and if there are large quantities available, the demand is spread over a vast number of coins. As a collector, you don't have to spend an exorbitant amount of money for a common 1884 PR65RB Indian Head Cent because there are many examples available - you might pay a little extra for a nicely graded coin, as opposed to one that is dull, spotted and ugly, but the premium shouldn't break the bank. On the other hand, if you want the same coin in PR67RD, be prepared to pay a lot more money - it's scarcer, and the small quantity available results in a greater demand for the few examples that are in the market place. Also, the fewer there are, the more likely they won't be available for purchase at all. There is also a slight anomaly in proof coinage - sometimes a coin that is not particularly scarce as a proof has a substantial premium because the date is quite scarce in mint state. The 1877 and the 1872 are two dates that come to mind. Both of these coins are readily available as proofs, about mid-range in terms of the rarest proof dates and the most common dates, but they command fairly substantial premiums because they are so scarce in mint state, particularly the proof 1877. With the help of Rick Snow, I have prepared a separate synopsis of the relative rarity of the various dates (part 2 of this article), including a discussion of not only condition rarity, but color rarity. Once you start acquiring the different dates, you will soon find out which dates are always available and which ones are very difficult to find.

Finally, one of the things that is also essential to understanding Value is that when you use price guides - whether the grey sheet, the blue sheet, the pink sheet, other published value guides, or even auction records of actual

sales - you have to equate the price information with the coin that you are contemplating purchasing. If the grey sheet "bid" for a coin is say \$500 in PR65RB and the coin that you are considering purchasing is a really nice example with great mirrors, wonderful colors and only the slightest of imperfections, and after having looked at many PR65RB's your reaction is: "Wow - this is the nicest PR65RB that I've seen!" - be prepared to pay more than "bid". The coin might be worth twice bid - it might be worth 50% more than bid - but it will definitely be worth more than bid. On the other hand, if it's dull, spotted, hairlined and your reaction is: "How did this ever get in a PR65RB holder? It may not even be worth paying "Bid" and you should ask yourself - "Do I want this coin as part of my set?" Always buy the coin, not the plastic. My personal opinion is that it's better to pay a "little too much" and own a "wow" coin, than pay a lot less and own a coin that you don't even like and nobody else wants.

From my own experience, after having put together several nice proof Indian Head Cent collections, both in slabs and in albums (I started collecting long before coins were ever slabbed), the coins that I paid "too much" for are the first ones the dealers want to buy. They may not want to pay me what I paid for it, but they definitely would like to buy it. It's difficult for a collector to buy coins for a collection and later sell them for more than he paid for them. The nature of the hobby of coin collecting is that the dealer you buy the coin from has to make a profit when he sells you the coin, and when he buys it back from you, he has to again be able to sell it for a profit. If you set your goals towards putting together a nice collection of eye-appealing coins, and you achieve that goal, you will have something that has provided great enjoyment, and when you do go to sell your collection, it should be readily saleable at the then current prevailing market conditions for the series that you have chosen to collect. If you have chosen carefully, and there is adequate collector demand for the quality of the coins you have chosen, you may be surprised with the value of your collection when it sells. I have collected Indian Head Cents because I believe that it is one of the most beautiful and collectable coins ever produced in this country, and I have enjoyed every minute of this avocation. I hope you enjoy your collecting interests as much as I have enjoyed mine.

I hope that this article is helpful if you are planning on starting a collection of proof Indian Head Cents, or if you are already collecting them, some of the information will aid you as you pursue those elusive "red" gems. In the next article, I will discuss the different characteristics of the various dates, which ones are common and which are the rarities, both by date and color and other aspects of this wonderful series that will be helpful if you are trying to complete a collection of proof Indian Head Cents.

The Florida Everglades and Indian Cents

By Don Haley

With Chris Pilliod

Note: Without a doubt the major shows bring out some of the most colorful collectors from the area. Whether it's the gentleman from picturesque The Dells, Wisconsin heading to the Central States Show or an enthusiast that just debarked a honking taxi on Madison Avenue to hurry into the ANA in New York City. It's always a treat to meet and interact with them, and invariably I find out how they got started in the hobby of numismatics. At the FUN Show earlier this year I met Don Haley, nicknamed "Water". I found his introduction into the hobby most curious and I share his words with you below...

We'd kill the engine and then quietly, very quietly, we would glide up to them... even the slightest of noise would scare 'em off into the depths. When you got within 30 feet you could hear your heart begin pounding. If it was a big one you could even hear your partner's heart pounding as you got close. Quietly you poled up next to them. You'd briefly stop to size them up and if it was a Really Big One its eyes would light up like bright colored golf balls in the night. The first few times I tried it I flinched at them nervously and they got away. Even years later my muscles would quiver as I slowly extended the snare in front of their grisly mouths, full of one-inch dagger shaped teeth protruding everywhere. Bam! What a fight... nothing compares with wrestling an 8-foot gator!

But it wasn't the fight that was the most exciting about hunting in the Everglades, it was the thrill of the find, just like with coins. And the freedom. The freedom of being out in the wild open with not another body within 30 miles of you. It was 1963 and I didn't have many worries—no kids, a new bride that liked to join me, and friends with hunting camps who always welcomed us. Being out in the wild open fit my personality just fine.

Cartographically, say the geographers, the Everglades is a river, a shallow freshwater body of water that slowly meanders its way from Lake Ochochobee to the Florida Bay down by the Keys. It's a wilderness occupied by a few Seminole Indians and a myriad of wildlife. And for

the two months of November and December, the State of Florida allows residents with a hunting license to cruise the vast National Park to hunt deer and wild hogs. Each hunter was allowed one hog per year and one deer per year... no limit on the frogs. If you got near J.W. Corbits Wildlife Refuge west of West Palm Beach, occasionally you'd see Florida panthers, but you don't dare shoot them, they're highly protected.

Since the Everglades is mostly water the hunting camps had to be built on stilts. To hunt we had to employ airboats, those flatbottom metal boats with the big propeller powered by jet engines in the back. We would race around the swamps and savannahs chasing game. I liked going after the boars, the wild hogs.

For food we ate the frogs we gigged at night or the wild hogs we hunted during the day. We slurped down Budweiser and laughed and ribbed each other late into the night. We'd stay up listening to the wide range of sounds produced by all the wildlife in the swamps. Then we'd catch a little shuteye on a homemade mattress or sleeping bag and then be back at it again the next day. Those were some good times, and I miss them. But they're over now, and I'm retired and I'll never be back. I won't be back, but I'll always have the memories. One of those memories is how the Everglades is responsible for me being a coin collector.

The Classified.

After three years of using my friend's camp, I decided it was high time to build my own. My friends' camps were becoming too crowded with new faces. Anyways it's always best to have a place you call your own; you know "Home, Sweet Home". Even though they were just shacks on stilts I wasn't exactly in a financial situation to go out and buy all the lumber and materials I needed for a decent camp. That's when I noticed a classified ad in The Palm Beach Post.

"Demolish wooden structure—make offer."

It was an ad to tear down an old condemned building on Dixie Highway (now the famous US Highway 1) in

Lantana, Florida, outside Lake Worth. I called and made an appointment. When I arrived in town, an older lady named Bertha Gruber greeted me. She was a librarian for the City of Lake Worth and she had acquired custodial duties of her recently deceased parents. They had for many, many years operated a spartan grocery store, catering to the local community where she sold bags of beans, pigs feet and ear, salt pork and so on. It also housed a lot of antiques and cabinetry and was built from solid Florida pine, great wood that lasts forever. And ideal for the swamps of the Everglades.

The store was old, built about 1910. Bertha had thought about keeping the place open, but the County Inspector had just condemned it and it needed to be razed. I looked at the place and right away noticed the wood was pristine. I made a deal that I would tear the store down for the wood and antiques, and in no time I would have the best damn camp between Okeechobee and Cuba... no doubt about it!

The next week, I commenced the demolition. Man, it was doggone hot when I started on the roof. After I got up inside the attic I noticed there was a second roof built underneath the original ceiling, which had decayed and was leaking real bad. "What a pain in the butt", I thought to myself as I lay there sweating, "why didn't she tell me this."

The Coins.

As I crawled around whacking that damn underroof off, I knocked over an old can of baking soda. What the hell is an old red metal can of baking soda doing in this wretched attic I wondered? It rolled down the roof and crashed onto the floor below, spilling its guts as it landed. I looked down and it was a bunch of pennies. When I looked closer I noticed an Indian cent, then another... then another! Lo and behold, they all were Indian cents! 3 rolls of Indian cents had been stashed in the can of baking soda. Soon another can of baking soda went raining down, crashing onto the floor, then another, then another... 23 cans in total! Each can had 3 rolls of Indian cents. Man, I hustled down off that roof and began scrounging up every last one of them and stuffing them into my pockets.

I wound up with 69 rolls full rolls and 20 or so loose ones, all told about 3470 Indian cents, including some Flying Eagles as well. Man, I was ecstatic! I could only speculate that a previous owner of the shop just

wrapped the cents up in rolls and hid them on the under roof. And then maybe they retrieved them as needed for change or maybe they were just hoarding them on purpose. I really don't know. All I know is when I went up into that attic I wasn't a coin collector but when I came down I was.

The rest of the building took 2 months to tear down and clean up the lot. When I was done with the job, I headed to Lake Worth to the local Five&Dime store where I remembered there was a Coin Shop. It was here where I received my first lesson in collecting, as the dealer there gave me one Indian cent for my ten. After that I visited a shop in West Palm Beach, where a friendly dealer gave me a Red Book to study and catalog all my findings.

There on the roof of Gruber's Grocery Store sat every date except for 1869, 1871, 1872, 1877 and maybe just one or two others. They survived pretty much intact in that hot attic for God knows how many scorching Florida summers. Most of the pieces were nice original brown coins; the grades varied from Good to near Mint State, and most had full "LIBERTY"s. Several were nice red and brown Mint State examples. And the highlight of the hoard for me was two or three original full red ones—they were common dates but had beautiful red color.

I decided to assemble a full set for myself as well as my wife. So I wound up trading duplicates or buying the dates I needed. I eventually put together two more sets after we started a family in 1965. And many years later all my grandkids would need an Indian Head collection as well. So all told I have been able to build 22 complete sets of Indian cents. I have thoroughly enjoyed the hobby, and have met many interesting people in my numismatic endeavors. Dorothy and Lou Johnson of Indian Heads of Distinction come to mind, as they have been most helpful to me. Maybe someday I'll sell off some sets to augment my latest numismatic love—Hobo nickels. Just like my tale above, each Hobo nickel has its own interesting story to tell.

And what about that hunting camp I was going to build? It never happened. I stored the wood and sheet metal at my father-in-law's for several years. Then we started a family and kids became first priority, taking up most of our time. But I did manage to build them a playhouse and a pigpen with some of the wood. The rest of it made for a good 4th of July bonfire.

An 1891 Indian Head Cent with Double Error.

By Ken Hill

In the last issue an 1894 Indian Head cent with a triple error was discussed. This time an 1891 IHC with two errors is presented. When looking at the full shots of this coin, it is obvious the coin is off-center. This is a striking error. The other area is not as obvious and will be mentioned later.



Ken Hill



Ken Hill

Off-center strikes occur when a planchet or blank is not correctly seated in the collar that is over the anvil die. This often occurs when the collar is stuck in the down position. The photo of the date shows distortion of the lower right ball of the 8, the upper right side and tail of the 9 and the top of the final 1. This distortion is caused by the absence of the collar which would have contained the metal flow. The description of an off-center strike includes both the percentage and direction that the coin is off-center.

There are several ways to determine how far a coin is off-center. One is to estimate the percentage by placing a strip of paper over the photograph or scan of the coin and marking the coin's diameter. By folding the diameter in half you get what would be equivalent to 50%, fold again to get 25%, again to get 12½%, etc. Once this is done the unstruck portion of the coin can be measured at its central or widest point and the result is the percentage that the coin is off-center. Another is to measure the coin's diameter (millimeters is the easiest), then measure the unstruck portion and divide that by the diameter which will give the percentage that the coin is off center. The diameter on the photo of this coin is 85 mm, the unstruck portion is 19 mm., therefore, 19/85's of the coin is unstruck. 19/85's equals 22.35294% so this coin is approximately 22% off-center.

The next thing to determine is the direction that the coin is off-center. This is done by using clock or Koit positions which are basically the same, i.e. 1 o'clock is equal to K-1, 2 o'clock is K-2, etc. The direction is determined by the struck portion of the coin. The struck portion of the coin pictured here is off center at 3 o'clock or K-3. A correct description for this coin would be an 1891 IHC that's 22% off-center at K-3.

The second error on this coin is a repunched date which is a die error or die variety and is listed as S-3 1891/1891 (n).



Ken Hill

Does anyone have an Indian Head cent with multiple errors that cover the PDS (planchet, die, strike) System? If one exists I would like to hear about it. It would make an interesting article. Fred or Xan, can you help out? For me the ultimate "triple error IHC" would be a flip-over double struck 1873 S-1 Doubled LIBERTY on a planchet intended for a \$2½ gold piece.

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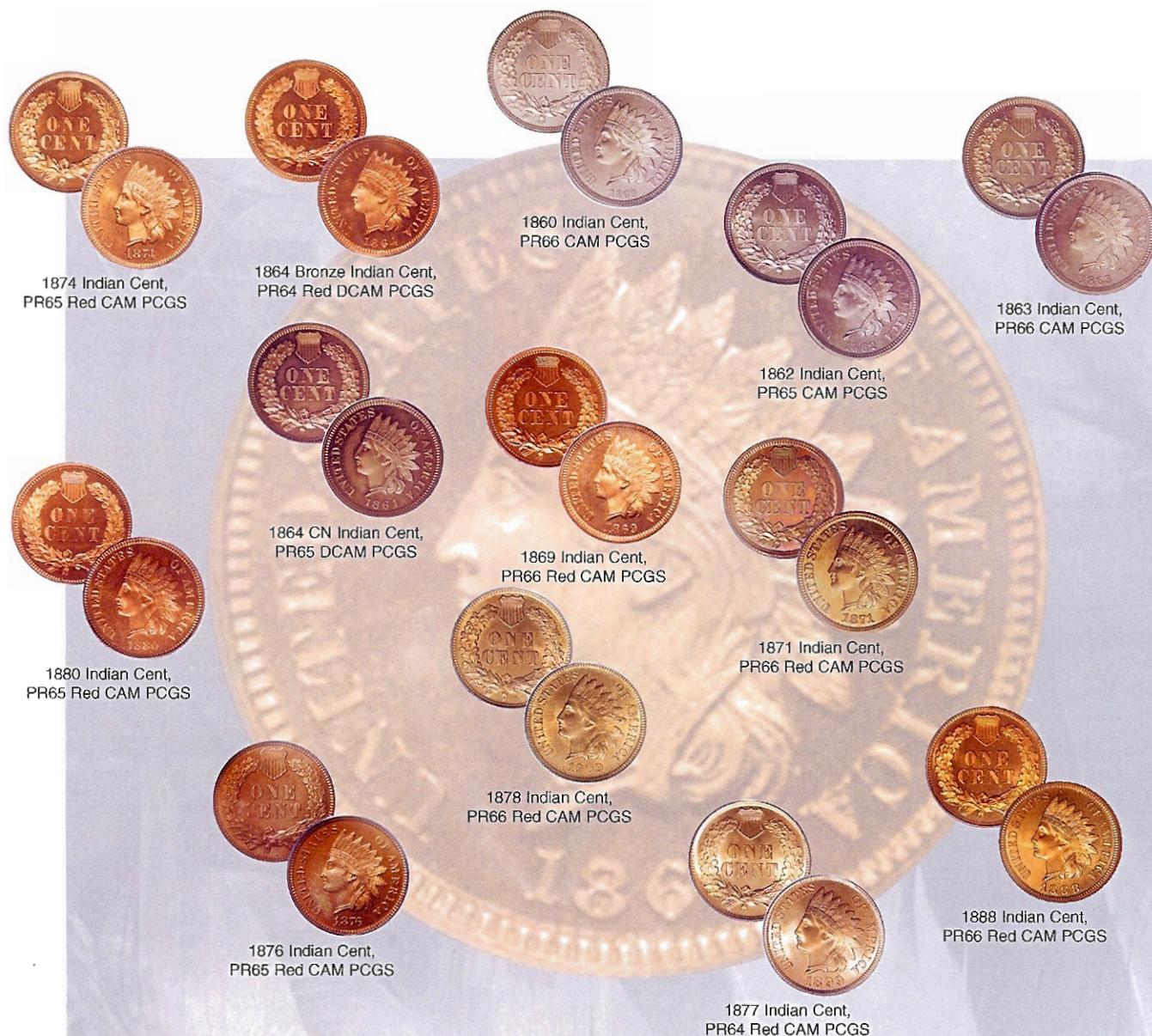
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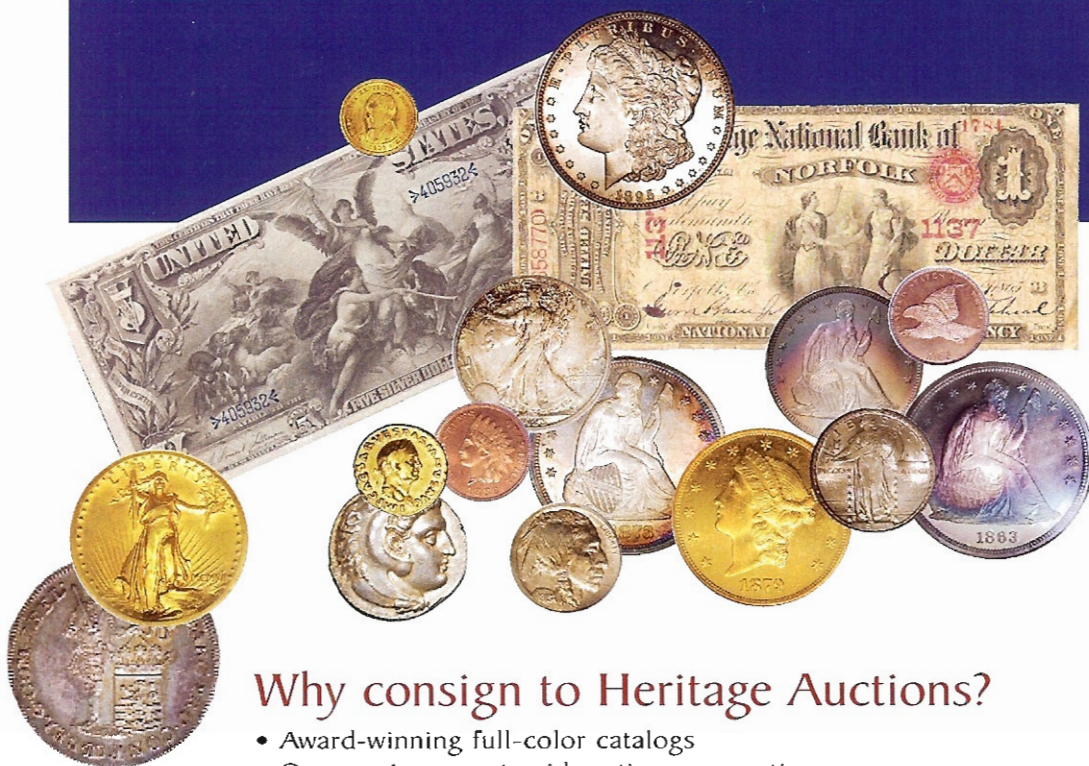
Joseph P. Gorrell Collection of Flying Eagle & Indian Cents

Two of the most popular series in American numismatics are the small-size cents of the Flying Eagle and Indian Head designs. With all of their associated types and rarities, the difficulty of assembling a complete collection in such exalted grades is a challenge appreciated most by those who have been unable to complete such a journey. Mr. Gorrell's collection is complete, with specimens worthy of inclusion in the finest Registry sets. More than a decade in the making, specialists and Type collectors alike will be pursuing the rarities in this important collection.

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How Many are There, Anyway?

By Chris Pilliod

After a year's absence this column has returned by popular demand! First off, my thanks to Jerry Wysonog for his many years of service as steward of the column. The new column has been updated with the following changes:

1. Any update to the table is now highlighted inside a gray format and bold numeric font.
2. The G and VG condition columns have been conjoined as well as the F and VF columns. There is little collector or commercial difference between these designations.
3. The 1909 L/L Doubled Die listing as well as the 1895 Repunched Date and 1902 MPD have been replaced with more substantial varieties; namely, the 1864 Concentric Circled Obverse, the 1882 MPD S-6 and the 1907 Multiple Repunched Date S-27.

4. In addition, one more variety will be added to the table based on member feedback.
5. The last table contained a few summation errors and these have been corrected in the new table.
6. We will look into posting the table on the Club's webpage.

For the time being, please forward any finds to me at pilliod@enter.net as the Club looks for a new steward. For this column I would like to thank the following for their contribution:

W.O. "Bill" Walker, Robert Lutz, Chris Pilliod, John Guisinger, Rick Snow, The Late John Smith, Frank Leone

Date	Snow	Variety	G-VG	F-VF	XF	AU	MS60-62	MS63	MS64	MS65-66	MS66	TOTAL
1857	S9	50¢ Obv. Clash	33	35	8	3	1	2	4	2	1	89
1857	S8	25¢ Rev. Clash	3	15	8	6	4	1	1	1	0	39
1857	S7	\$20 Obv. Clash	16	14	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	35
1857	S11	RPD	0	2	3	1	3	2	0	2	0	13
1858 LL	S1	1858/7 (EDS)	3	14	10	15	4	3	5	0	0	54
1858 LL	S7	1/1858/7	0	5	4	0	1	1	1	0	0	12
1859	S1	RPD	6	7	7	8	1	0	1	0	0	30
1864 No L	S4	DDO 1-O-V	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	7
1864 No L	S11	Con. Die Lines	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
1865 Fancy 5	S2	DDR 1-R-IV	5	5	3	3	3	2	1	0	0	22
1865 Fancy 5	S1	5/4 digit punch	3	1	2	5	0	1	2	1	0	15
1865 Plain 5	S1	Plain 5 /Fancy 5	0	3	1	1	1	1	5	2	0	14
1866	S1	DDO 1-O-V	2	16	7	5	3	2	3	2	1	40
1866	S3	RPD	6	6	2	3	3	2	2	1	0	25
1867	S1	RPD	42	25	12	4	7	6	15	5	0	116
1868	S1	DDO 1-O-III	0	3	7	5	3	4	5	1	1	29
1869	S1	RPD	4	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	11
1870	S1	DDO 1-O-IV (3)	0	2	13	7	7	4	7	1	0	41
1870	S3	DDO 2-O-IV	0	0	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	7
1870	S5	DDO 3-O-IV	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
1870	S5	MPD	8	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	11
1870	S8	MPD	3	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	9
1872	S1	RPD	4	5	2	1	2	1	4	1	0	20
1873 Closed 3	S1	DDO 1-O-III	38	36	16	20	7	4	3	2	0	126
1873 Closed 3	S2	DDO 2-O-III	0	8	9	11	8	7	4	3	0	50
1873 Open 3	S6	MPD	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	2	0	9
1873 Open 3	S1	RPD	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
1874	S1	DDO 1-O-V	0	0	1	2	0	1	3	1	0	8
1880	S1	O/C Clash Rev.	1	3	2	4	2	4	3	2	0	21
1882	S6	MPD	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
1883	S1	MPD	12	6	2	3	1	1	3	2	2	32
1884	S1	MPD	2	9	5	4	1	0	2	1	0	24
1887	S1	DDO 1-O-V	36	22	8	6	1	2	1	0	0	76
1888	S1	1888/7	8	6	1	2	4	2	1	1	0	25
1888	S2	RPD	5	6	1	7	2	1	1	0	0	23
1888	S8	MPD	3	5	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	14
1889	S1	DDR 1-R-III	3	7	6	10	2	2	3	1	0	34
1890	S1	QDO 1-O-II (3)	1	4	3	8	2	2	2	2	0	24
1891	S1	DDO 1-O-IV	10	6	4	7	3	1	3	1	0	35
1891	S7	MPD	1	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	8
1891	S3	RPD	15	11	6	12	3	6	7	1	0	61
1894	S1	RPD	98	31	10	4	5	9	9	4	2	172
1894	S2	MPD	10	4	3	5	1	0	3	0	0	26
1897	S1	MPD	52	31	16	8	2	5	2	0	0	116
1907	S27	MPD	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	3

A Date, Grade and Color Analysis of Proof Indian Head Cents.

By: A. Ronald Sirna, Jr.

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The following date by date information for the Proof Indian Head Cent series has been compiled from data available from the PCGS and NGC Population reports, together with information acquired from my own personal experience looking for quality proof Indian Head Cents. This article has also been generously helped by information compiled by Richard Snow of Eagle Eye Rare Coins. Rick has previously compiled a date by date analysis of the Heathgate Proof Indian Head Cent collection. Many of Rick's comments are included in this analysis, and to distinguish his comments from my text, I have italicized his information so that I don't continually repeat: "as noted by Rick Snow". In some instances I have expanded upon Rick's commentary, and added my own observations as to date, grade and color rarity. This will always be an evolving project, and as more coins are seen and graded by the grading services, this compilation is subject to change. However, as we now have over 15 years of statistical data, we are able to quantify and understand which dates and grades are rare and which ones are difficult to find in full "Red". This gives us a better understanding of which coins are relatively easy to locate in the marketplace, which ones are scarce and which ones are great rarities. The grade information will refer to what I consider collectable grades for the majority of the coins in the proof Indian Head Cent series: PR64 through Proof 66. Although there are a few eye-appealing PR63 coins, it is difficult to consistently find nice examples, so I would recommend that for the most part you try to obtain examples in PR64 or higher. Proof 67's, though available, are generally very expensive and it is not possible to complete a set of proof Indian Head Cents if limited to that grade alone. However, if anyone is interested in putting together the "finest" set, there are several dates that have Proof 67 or higher examples available, with the majority being dated 1877 or later, as prior to 1877, PCGS has only graded two 1864's and one 1874 in PR67 in any color grade. From 1877 on, the only dates not available in PR67 are the following: 1886 Type 2, 1887, 1890, 1891, 1894, and 1896, but there are a number of dates that have only 1 or 2 examples in this designated grade.

One has to bear in mind that the Pop reports may actually reflect a higher number of coins graded than there may actually be found in plastic slabs due to the fact that oftentimes nice coins are cracked out for re-grading and the old grading inserts are not always returned to be deleted from the Pop report data base. This will be particularly true with higher value dates such as the 1877 where a one point grade increase might be worth several thousand dollars.

All presently known die pairs of all proof Flying Eagle and Indian Cents are being listed in the new Flying Eagle and Indian Cent attribution guide, 2nd edition by Rick Snow. It is being published by Eagle Eye Rare Coins in 6 volumes and if you are interested in forming a collection of Indian Head Cents, whether mint state of proof, I would highly recommend these books.

Date by Date analysis

(Pop report information is current as of 11/15/2002):

I. Copper-Nickel Proofs

This short-lived series is relatively easy to complete in PR64 or PR65. The two key dates are the 1861 and the 1860 respectively, with the 1861 being particularly difficult to locate in PR65 and above. This series also contains the most readily available cameo dates, with the 1862 being "common" with 30 examples graded by both PCGS and NGC and the 1864 the next most "common" with 26 examples graded by the two services; but again the 1860 and the 1861 are very scarce in cameo designation with only two cameo coins of each date by either grading service. There are also 10 deep or ultra cameos, with the only dates available with that designation being the 1862 and the 1864 with 5 each. Any of the cameos or deep cameo coins would be suitable for a high grade type set as in "cameo" they are very eye-appealing coins. Note, utilizing only PCGS population data, about 4.4% of all PCGS graded CN proof Indian Head Cents are cameo or deep cameo coins.

1859 Proof: Readily available in proof grades 64-65. PCGS has graded 18 PR66's with 1 PR67; NGC has graded 17 PR66's, with 1 PR67. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 4 cameo examples with the highest a PR65Cam; NGC has graded 6 Cameo examples, with the highest a PR67Cam.

Popular and important as a one year type design featuring Longacre's Indian head design and a simple reverse design featuring a Laurel wreath reverse around the denomination, "ONE CENT". However, the obverse portrait is actually "Lady Liberty", a Caucasian representation of Liberty borrowed from the Three Dollar design of 1854. She is wearing a headdress of a Native American of the Chippewa tribe. The reverse is actually an olive wreath, although the laurel wreath description is somewhat accurate as their leaves are visually similar.

1860 Proof: Available in PR64, a tough date in PR65 and above. PCGS has graded 4 PR66's with no PR67's; NGC has graded 6 PR66's, with 1 PR67 and 1 PR68. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 2 cameo examples, with the highest a PR66Cam; NGC has not graded any Cameo examples. This is the second rarest CN proof Indian Head Cent.

The first year of the series featuring the Lady Liberty in a Native American headdress paired with the new reverse featuring a wreath of oak with a sprig of olive and three arrows knotted at the base with a ribbon. The federal shield of the Union is featured above the wreath. This design is continued until the end of the series, with minor modifications along the way. This is a very tough date to find in full gem condition. The majority of the estimated mintage of 542 was struck only once, imparting an impression that usually did not strike out all of the planchet marks. The quality of the 1860 issue is always somewhat lacking in the quality seen up to 1859 and after 1861. They are nearly always seen with mirrors that are only moderate and edges that are rounded, which is why these are sometimes confused as being prooflike strikings. The population figures bear this out with only 19 examples presently graded with 2 better by PCGS. In early 1860 the portrait was redesigned significantly for some unknown reason. The main difference in the two designs is the shape of the bust truncation. The type of 1859 has a short pointed bust truncation. The type adopted in 1860 has a more rounded bust point. All proofs are struck from the rounded bust design.



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1861 Proof: Available in PR64, a very tough date in PR65 and above. PCGS has graded just 2 PR66's with none higher; NGC has graded 3 PR66's, with none higher. This date is available in Cameo, but PCGS has graded none and NGC has graded 2 PR65 Cameo examples. This is the rarest CN proof Indian Head Cent.

As with the 1860 issue, many coins struck this year were struck only once on moderately mirrored dies. This lack of quality standards at the Mint has made this a real tough issue to locate in gem condition. Out on an original mintage of 1000 pieces, only about 400 were released. The survivor rate seems to be quite low, perhaps many substandard examples were subsequently spent, or included collections as non-proofs. There is enormous collector demand for this issue in gem condition.

Based on my experience in locating this date, I believe that the total released mintage to be less than 300 coins. The civil war had already started and based upon the very low number graded by both services, either less were sold to collectors or, if 400 were in fact released, many must have been released into circulation and not to collectors. One has to bear in mind that minor coins became very scarce during the civil war - hence the need for civil war tokens for commerce. It is not unlikely that the mint would have released any left over proof coins to help alleviate that shortage.

1862 Proof: Readily available in proof grades 64-65. PCGS has graded 34 PR66's with 1 PR67; NGC has graded 30 PR66's, with 7 PR67's. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 17 cameo examples with the highest a PR67Cam; NGC has graded 13 Cameo examples, with the highest a PR68Cam. There are 5 deep (or "ultra") cameos with 2 PR66 deep cameos from each service.

This is the "type" date in the copper-nickel Indian Cent series. Usually available much more often than any other date from 1860 to 1864, even though the mintage of 550 is not substantially higher. This issue is found much better than 1860 and 1861. In addition to higher quality standards at the Mint, there was a substantial hoard of approximately 200 coins, which came to light many years ago.

1863 Proof: Readily available in proof grades 64-65. PCGS has graded 8 PR66's with 1 PR67; NGC has graded 6 PR66's, with none higher. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 6 cameo examples with the highest as PR66Cam; NGC has graded 5 Cameo examples, with the highest as PR67Cam. The 1863 is the 3rd scarcest of the CN proofs, slightly less available than the 1864CN.

Nearly the entire issue of 460 pieces was struck from a single set of dies.

1864 CN Proof: Readily available in proof grades 64-65. PCGS has graded 11 PR66's with 2 PR67's; NGC has graded 9 PR66's, with none higher. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 10 cameo examples with the highest as PR67Cam; NGC has graded 16 Cameo examples, with the highest a PR67Cam. There are 5 deep (or "ultra") cameos with at least one PR66 deep cameo from each service.

The reported mintage of 370 pieces is the lowest of all the copper-nickel Indian Cents. Survivors are typically below average compared to the quality of the 1862 issue.

II. Bronze Proofs

The bronze proof Indian Head Cents are also relatively "easy" (there are 46 coins not counting the 1864-L and 1886 Type 2) to complete in PR64 or PR65, BUT only as proof red-brown coins. If you decide to complete your set in full "Red" examples, be prepared for a difficult task, as there are several dates that are extremely difficult to locate in full red condition. Also, be prepared to scrutinize the coins carefully sometimes, the holder says "red" but the coin is red-brown. I have personally requested that PCGS "decertify" one of my high grade PR66RD coins to a PR66RB as it was definitely not red. As you acquire both RD and RB examples, you will begin to see that sometimes a high-end RB is "redder" than the same grade coin in a RD holder. There are several difficult dates to acquire in full red condition; using just PR65RD as the criteria, the following dates will be a challenge: 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1872, 1874, 1875, 1882, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890 and 1896, with the 1887 and the 1888 being particularly difficult to locate in PR65RD. An interesting anomaly in the proof bronze Indian Head Cent coinage is that it is generally "easier" to acquire a PR66 or better example in a proof RD grade than it is in a RB or BN grade.

Some comments with respect to coins designated BN: Some of the most beautiful Indian Head Cents are actually graded BN - it seems that when a bronze proof Indian Head Cent acquires wonderful deep blue, violet, mahogany and/or black-cherry red colors, the grading services designate these coins as brown. This is a misnomer and a dis-service to those few coins that have some of the most spectacular eye appeal of all Indian Head Cents. These coins sell for premiums (sometimes substantial) over plain-jane, dull brown coins, and I believe the greatest challenge would be to put together a complete set of these wonderfully colored "brown" coins. I would highly recommend acquiring at least one example these beautifully toned bronze proof Indian Head Cents, as they tend to be what I refer to as "Wow" coins - when you pick one up and look at it, your first reaction is "WOW!!". I always try and buy "wow" coins when I see them, but unfortunately, they are sometimes just too expensive - the added beauty of these colorful BN proof Indian Head Cents is that they are actually affordable wow coins! (Dealers often refer to wow coins as "monsters", "Godzilla" and other superlative terms that usually mean "lots of money" if you want to own it.)

The bronze Indian Head Cents also contain several available cameo dates, but none can be even remotely considered common, and deep cameo's are almost non-existent, with there being only two bronze deep or ultra cameos graded by both grading services, both coins being the 1864 Bronze issue. Further, PCGS ONLY grades red coins as cameo, so if you see a PCGS graded bronze Indian Head Cent graded as PR65Cam it is a Red Cameo. PCGS just started adding the RD designation to the label for bronze proof Indian Head Cents, so any of the first cameo proof Indian Head Cents graded by PCGS will not indicate that the coin is RD. Because toning will tend to obscure the cameo contrast of bronze proof coins, there are not many RB cameo examples, and I believe that is the reason why PCGS does not apply a cameo designation to RB coins. However, NGC will grade RB coins with a cameo designation, with the following dates having been graded as Proof RB-Cameos by NGC: 1864, 1865, 1866, 1871, 1874, 1876, 1878, and 1891. Any of the bronze cameo coins would be suitable for a high grade type set as in "cameo", they are also very eye-appealing coins, but all are scarce. Interestingly, as of the writing of this article, the 1877 is the one of the most available dates in Red cameo, with there being a total of 8 Red cameo examples graded by both services, and the 1878 is probably the most available "common" date, also with 8 red cameos graded by both services, and 3 RB cameos graded by NGC. Note, utilizing only PCGS population data, less than 1/2 of 1% (0.47% or .0047) of all PCGS graded bronze proof Indian Head Cents are cameo coins, and there is only one bronze deep cameo coin. Cameo proof Indian Head Cents are very rare.

1864-1869: As a group, probably the most difficult dates to acquire in any grade. None of these dates can really be considered common, but nice examples can be found.

1864 No L Proof: Probably the least number available coins in proof grades 64RB & 65RB. A very rare coin in RD. PCGS has graded only 10 PR65RD's with 1 PR66RD and 1 PR67RD; NGC has graded but 1 PR65RD, with none higher. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 3 cameo examples with the highest a PR65Cam; NGC has graded no RD Cameo examples, but they have graded a PR64RBCam. There are 2 deep (or "ultra") cameos with one PCGS PR64RD Deep Cameo and one NGC PR66RD Ultra Cameo. (I have seen both coins and the NGC PR66 Ultra cameo has a very pink, un-natural dipped out look, and the PCGS PR64RD Deep Cameo has a cherry-red color and looks under-graded in comparison).

A very important coin as a one-year type, the type of 1860 - 1864 struck in the new bronze alloy. This is one of the rarest dates in the proof Indian Cent collection. The mintage of 1864 proof cents is open to some debate. Breen recorded a total of 470 proof sets of the silver and minor coins sold by the Mint. He breaks down the deliveries to those made before the Mint Act of April 22 as the mintage of the copper nickel ex-

amples (370) and those after as the mintage of the bronze No L pieces (100). This cannot be correct, since there are nearly 200 1864 No L proofs graded from all the grading services combined. There must have been an unknown number of specimens made and distributed later in the year. Up until this time, and continuing until 1878, the mintage figures of minor coins must be reconstructed from sales figures of sets and any other collateral evidence that can be found. The Mint was under no legal obligation to record mintage figures for minor coin proofs. We can guess at the original figures based on what we see in the marketplace, accounting for a quantity of examples being lost to the ravages of time, but even an educated guess will undoubtedly be off the mark. Regardless, perhaps 300 is the correct mintage.

1865 Proof: The second most difficult date to find in proof grades 64RB & 65RB. A very rare coin in RD. PCGS has graded only 9 PR65RD's and only 1 PR66RD; NGC has graded 5 PR65RD, and only 1 PR66RD. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded no cameo examples; NGC has graded one PR64RD Cameo.

This is a very difficult date to find in gem full red. Like many other dates in this series, the rarity of the coins struck in proof format have no relation to the rarity of the regular issues. Non-proofs are fairly common for this date. Not so for the proofs. The mintage currently given in references is 500, which may be generous. This issue is notorious for having low percentage of red. Many of the planchets used for the proofs were on streaky planchets. When the alloys of Tin and Zinc are not mixed well into the copper, pockets of alloy remain in the bronze ingot. As the ingot is rolled out, these pockets get elongated and eventually turn into streaks on the finished planchets. Tin and Zinc are very volatile and will not hold the original color of the coin. The few 1865's that remain in full red are presumably from a higher quality melt, and are very rare and desirable because of this.

1866 Proof: More readily available than the 1864 & 1865, but still a difficult date to find in proof grades 64RB & 65RB, especially ones that look nice. A very scarce coin in RD. PCGS has graded only 17 PR65RD's and 3 PR66RD's; NGC has graded 8 PR65RD's, and 4 PR66RD's. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 5 cameo examples, with the highest being PR66RD Cam; NGC has graded one PR64RD Cam and a PR67RB Cam.

Closer inspection will reveal small depressions on Liberty's cheek and neck. These are presumably die rust marks and are on every 1866 example and are therefore not considered in determining the grade of any 1866 proof. The reverse die is the same die used on the 1865, although it was repolished between the two issues.

1867 Proof: Again, more readily available than the 1864 & 1865, but still a difficult date to find in proof grades 64RB & 65RB, especially ones that look nice. A very scarce coin in RD. PCGS has graded only 13 PR65RD's and 1 PR66RD; NGC has graded 11 PR65RD's, and 5 PR66RD's. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 1 cameo example, a PR66RD Cam; NGC has graded 2 PR65RD Cam's.

The dies used for proofs this year show many anomalies, which sometimes get mistaken for problems on the coin. On the obverse there is always a die line on the neck, which to the uninitiated eye may look like a scratch. The reverse die is a leftover die used in 1865 and 1866. By its usage in 1867 it has acquired numerous die polishing marks which may look like hairlines. None of these are grade limiting and are on all examples seen to date.



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1868 Proof: Again, more readily available than the 1864 & 1865, but still a difficult date to find in proof grades 64RB & 65RB, especially ones that look nice. A very scarce coin in RD. PCGS has graded only 13 PR65RD's and 2 PR66RD's; NGC has graded only 4 PR65RD's, and 2 PR66RD's. This date is not available in Cameo.

About 100 examples were struck with a widely rotated reverse (about 170 degrees). Examples of this date are very hard to locate in gem condition.

1869 Proof: Again, more readily available than the 1864 & 1865, but still a difficult date to find in proof grades 64RB & 65RB, especially ones that look nice. A very scarce coin in RD. PCGS has graded only 17 PR65RD's and 3 PR66RD's; NGC has graded 14 PR65RD's, and 2 PR66RD's. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 4 cameo examples, with the highest PR66RD Cam; NGC has graded 2 PR66RD Cam's.

Many die polishing lines in the field may be mistaken for hairlines. Many of the dates in the late 1860's and early 1870's are only found with moderately deep mirrors. The reason for this seems to be that the dies had been polished after they were hardened, which does not impart as deep a mirror as found on later dates. Additionally the reverse dies were normally held over and used for many years, being repolished many times throughout its life.

1870-1879 As a group these dates are not as difficult to acquire in collectable grades, but still scarce. The dates in the early 70's (1871-1875) are very hard to find as high grade examples and full RD coins are particularly difficult to find, but less so than the 1864-1869. Starting in 1879, the dates are considered common, and nice examples can be found with much less difficulty.

1870 Proof: Again, more available than most of the dates in the 1860's, but still a difficult date to find in nice examples of higher proof grades. A scarce coin in RD. PCGS has graded only 20 PR65RD's and 4 PR66RD's; NGC has graded just 9 PR65RD's, and 4 PR66RD's. This date is not available in Cameo.

The dies on all 1870 proof Indian Cents are rather roughly polished on both sides. The resulting criss-crossing die polishing marks may be confused with hairlines on the field of the coin. The reverse die used to strike this example is the same die that struck some of the 1864 With L proofs (PR-2).

1871 Proof: Again, more available than most of the dates in the 1860's, but still a difficult date to find in nice examples of higher proof grades. A moderately scarce coin in RD. PCGS has graded 29 PR65RD's but only 1 PR66RD; NGC has graded 16 PR65RD's, and 3 PR66RD's. This date is available in Cameo, but there is only one example graded PR66RD Cam by PCGS.

All 1871 Indian Cents come with moderate mirrors, and this coin is no exception. The beauty of this example is magnified when you realize how the typical 1871 looks. As in the previous lot, the apparent hairlines on the fields are actually die polish lines imparted at the Mint. These do not limit the grade, however they may have influenced the graders to be a bit too conservative on this example. A wonderful example. The reverse die used

on this example is the same as used in 1870. This is a shallow N reverse, which was the old style used prior to this date. Most 1871 non-proof Indian Cents have the new redesigned reverse which has a bold N in "ONE".



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1872 Proof: Again, more available than most of the dates in the 1860's, but still a difficult date to find in nice examples of higher proof grades. A very scarce coin in RD. PCGS has graded 10 PR65RD's and 6 PR66RD's; NGC has graded 11 PR65RD's, and 3 PR66RD's. This date is not available in Cameo.

The 1872 proof issue was struck in about the same quantities as the other dates in the early 1870's, but for some reason, are much scarcer than other dates in gem full red grades. Most of the encountered examples are some shade of red brown. There is strong additional date demand for this issue due to the rarity of the non-proof format issues. The reverse die used on this coin has a curious anomaly. There is a distinct bulge on the right serif of the T in CENT. This die is seen on later issues until 1877.

1873 Proof: Again, more available than those of the 1860's, but still a difficult date to find in nice proof examples. A scarce coin in RD. PCGS has graded only 24 PR65RD's and 3 PR66RD's; NGC has graded 6 PR65RD's, and 2 PR66RD's. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 2 cameo examples, with the highest PR66RD Cam; NGC has graded no cameos of this date.

This issue typically comes with moderate mirrors. The obverse fields has been drastically polished to the point where the eye socket is now part of the field and the first feather is disconnected from the headband. Nearly all 1873 proofs seen to date are like this. The reverse die is a reuse of a die first used for the 1872 proof. The Closed 3 date style is used on the early dies made prior to Chief Coiner A.L. Snowden's complaint on January 18th regarding the similarities of the look of the date to 1878. All proofs this

year are of the closed 3 style. The reported mintage of 1100 seems to be in line with the rarity of examples seen in the marketplace. This is a very tough coin to locate in gem full red condition. This is due to the sloppy die preparation, which produced coins that do not seem to excite very often.

1874 Proof: Again, more available than those of the 1860's, but still a difficult date to find in nice proof examples. A very scarce coin in RD. PCGS has graded only 11 PR65RD's and 7 PR66RD's; NGC has graded 11 PR65RD's, and 2 PR66RD's. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 3 cameo examples, with the highest a PR66RD Cam; NGC has graded no RD cameos of this date, but has graded one PR65RB Cam.

This example shows die finishing lines from the 10:30 clock position to 4:30. These may look like hairlines to the untrained eye. These are caused by a rougher polishing of the die than typical for proofs. This is in fact a fairly early die state of this issue. The mirrors are moderate at best, but represent best available for this issue in this die state. The entire issue was struck from a single pair of dies. The obverse exhibits a die anomaly by 4 in the date. This looks like a repunched date but was probably caused by a defective digit punch. The reverse is struck using the same workhorse proof die used in 1872 and 1873.

1875 Proof: This date is essentially on a par with those of the 1860's, and particularly difficult to find in higher grade proof examples. A very scarce coin in RD. PCGS has graded only 11 PR65RD's and 2 PR66RD's; NGC has graded 6 PR65RD's, and no PR66RD's. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 2 cameo examples, with the highest a PR65RD Cam; NGC has graded but one PR65RD Cam.

Moderate mirrors, as is typical for this issue. This is a very tough date in gem full red. This is a year where the production of proofs was not given the quality control seen in other years. Every denomination in the proof set is hard to find in the higher grades due to this lack of quality standards. For years they were unknown in PR65RD. A few are now known, but it is perhaps because the grading services lowered their expectations due to the quality of extent examples.

1876 Proof: Again, more available than those of the 1860's, but still a difficult date to find in nice proof examples. A scarce coin in RD. PCGS has graded 24 PR65RD's and 10 PR66RD's; NGC has graded 8 PR65RD's, and 3 PR66RD's. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded but 1 cameo example a PR65RD Cam; NGC has graded two RD cameos of this date, with the highest a PR66RD Cam and also one PR66RB Cam.

The reverse die is the same die used to strike Proofs from 1872, 1873 and 1874 as well as a few 1875's. It was lightly polished this year, removing some of the light die polish marks seen on earlier issues.



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1877 Proof: Again, more available than dates in the 1860's, but still a difficult date to find in nice examples of higher proof grades. There is a lot of date pressure on this coin due to the scarcity of the mint state 1877. Another mid-level scarce coin in RD. PCGS has graded only 20 PR65RD's, but 11 PR66RD's and 1 PR67RD; NGC has graded 13 PR65RD's, just 2 PR66RD's and 1 PR67RD. This date is the most "common" available date in Red Cameo with 8 total coins graded in cameo (if 8 coins out of the 528 coins graded - less than 2% - can be considered common!). PCGS has graded 4 cameo examples, the highest graded is PR65RD Cam; NGC has likewise graded 4 RD cameos of this date, with the highest a PR66RD Cam.

Always popular as a proof example of the key date in the Indian Cent series. No precise mintage figure exists for the proof 1877 Indian, but enough information is available to make an educated guess. Breen lists 510 in his Proof Encyclopedia. The present estimate is now 910. It is known that 510 "Silver" sets were sold which included the five silver coins, the two nickel coins and the cent. Additionally, there were about 400 "Nickel" sets struck which included just the cent and the two nickel coins, of which we know 260 were mailed out, with the unknown remainder being sold over the counter in Philadelphia. The reverse die used to strike this example is the "Bulged T" reverse, which was first used in 1872 and was used to strike many of the proof issues between that date and 1877. The right pennant of the T is in much higher relief than the other parts of the letter. This feature neither raises nor lowers the desirability of the coin.

1878 Proof: From this date forward there are more “common” dates than there are scarce or rare dates. You could almost draw a line between 1877 and 1878 when it comes to collecting proof Indian Head Cents, with the later dates far more easily obtainable than the earlier dates. From this date forward, I will provide the Pop report figures for the scarce and rare RD coins only. If no Population figures are given, you can assume that the date is readily obtainable even in high grade red condition (Proof 65 and above, often with proof 67RD coins available). PCGS has graded 37 PR65RD’s, 12 PR66RD’s and 1 PR67RD; NGC has graded 24 PR65RD’s, 5 PR66RD’s and 1 PR67RD. This date is the most common date available in PR64RD. It is also the most “common” available date in Cameo with 11 total coins graded in cameo (but 11 coins out of the 551 coins graded is still less than 2%). PCGS has graded 5 cameo examples, the highest graded is PR66RD Cam; NGC has graded 3 RD cameos of this date, with the highest a PR67RD Cam (the Starr coin) and 3 RB cameos of this date, with the highest a PR66RB Cam.

Starting in 1878 many things changed at the Mint. Proof production of minor coinage increased to two to three times the previous year’s mintage. The actual mintage of minor proofs were now recorded with accuracy. The Mint’s minor coin production was based more on expected demand than actual demand. The many unsold examples were sold in bulk to local coin dealers at or near face value. Also starting this year planchet production for minor coinage was shifted from the Mint to outside sources. The quality of proof coinage improved.

1879 Proof: Readily available in all grades. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 2 cameo examples, both graded PR67RD Cam; NGC has not graded any cameos of this date.

This date is more commonly found in higher grades than most other dates in the proof series. This would be a perfect date for a high quality type set.

1880-1889 As a group these dates are the most common in collectable grades, and not considered scarce. The dates in the late 80’s (1887-1889) are very hard to find as high grade examples and full RD coins are nearly impossible to find; Red 1887 and 1888’s are on a par with the rare 1864 & 1865. The 1880 through the 1886 Type 1 are considered the most common of the proof Indian Head Cents and nice examples can be easily acquired.

1880 Proof: Readily available in all grades. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 2 cameo examples, the highest graded is PR65RD Cam; NGC has graded 3 cameo examples, the highest graded is PR67RD Cam.

A common date in the proof series, if in fact any date can truly be called “common”. The two 8’s in the date show some punch breakage. The digit punches used this year show broken or partially missing elements to varying degrees. Many different dies were effected.

1881 Proof: Readily available in all grades. No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

1882 Proof: Readily available in all PrRB grades; but scarce in RD grades. PCGS has graded 14 PR65RD’s, 10 PR66RD’s and 4 PR67RD’s; NGC has graded 9 PR65RD’s, only 1 PR66RD with none higher. Thus, the two grading services have only graded 38 total coins in PR65RD or higher. No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

1883 Proof: Readily available in all PrRB grades; but scarce in RD grades. PCGS has graded 15 PR65RD’s, 5 PR66RD’s and 1 PR67RD; NGC has graded 11 PR65RD’s, only 3 PR66RD’s and 1 PR67RD. Thus, the two grading services have only graded 36 total coins in PR65RD or higher.

Full red gem proof Indian Cents for this year are very tough to find. Presently the PCGS population is 4 in Proof 66RD and 1 in Proof 67. This is curious since the mintage is one of the highest of the series. This situation also exists for the 1886 and 1888 issues which have an even higher mintage and are even rarer than this date in gem full red.

1884 Proof: This is probably the most common date and is one of the more available dates in all grades, but no Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

1885 Proof: Readily available in all PrRB grades; but scarce in RD grades. PCGS has graded 17 PR65RD’s, 8 PR66RD’s and 3 PR67RD; but NGC has graded only 4 PR65RD’s, only 3 PR66RD’s and 1 PR67RD. Again, the two grading services have only graded 36 total coins in PR65RD or higher. No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

1886 Type 1 Proof: Readily available in all PrRB grades; but scarce in RD grades. PCGS has graded 18 PR65RD’s, 10 PR66RD’s with none higher; but NGC has graded only 3 PR65RD’s, only 2 PR66RD’s with none higher. Thus, the two grading services have only graded 33 total coins in PR65RD or higher. No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

The more common design type with the last feather pointing between the I & C of AMERICA. The PCGS population report grouped both the Type 1 and Type 2 1886 Proof Indian into one listing as late as 1999. When they were separated, the entire population was

moved into the Type 1 listing. This makes the Type 1 seem more common than it actually is if one looks solely at that data. However, the reality is not much different for gem full red proofs. The Type 2 turns out to be prohibitively rare in high grades in full red.

1886 Type 2 Proof: I include this coin even though it is a variety because, unlike the 1864-L which is virtually unobtainable, this date is available in PR64RB & PR65RB; but it is prohibitively rare in RD grades. PCGS has graded 3 PR65RD's, and only 1 PR66RD with none higher; but NGC has graded only 1 PR65RD with none higher. Thus, the two grading services have graded only 5 total coins in PR65RD or higher, and there are only 9 PCGS PR64RD coins graded. If you want to add this date to your set, you will probably have to settle for a RB coin, or at best a PR64RD example. No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

One of the rarest dates in the proof Indian Cent series in gem full red. The few full red examples that exist have a light gold tone, nearly straw colored. Other issues, like 1887 show this same peculiar color. Be aware that this is normal for the issue and may be a clue to the reason so few have been graded of these dates in full red. It's not that these get unfairly rejected by the grading services, I think they know an original coin when they see them. The coins are just not out there in full red. (The PR66RD was just offered in Heritage's F.U.N. sale featuring the "Joshua" collection of proof Indian Cents.) NGC has graded a PR65RD example also. The populations may not reflect the overall rarity of this issue properly due to the addition of this listing in 1999, however years of experience have shown this to be an outstanding rarity.

1887 Proof: Readily available in all PrRB grades; but very rare in RD grades. PCGS has graded only 24 1887's in Red (less than any other date other than the 1886 Type 2) with only 10 PR65RD's and 2 PR66RD's; NGC has graded only 11 total 1887's in Red, with 3 PR65RD's and but 1 PR66RD. Thus, the two grading services have only graded 16 total coins in PR65RD or higher. The 1887 in proof Red is on a par in rarity with the 1865 and is a very tough date to acquire in full red condition. No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

This is one of the top condition rarities of the series. As with the 1886 Type 2, this issue is usually rather pale in color when found full red. It would be interesting to know if this is due to a different alloy used or if the cause was some external procedure used at the Mint. Perhaps the cent planchets were washed in an acidic solution prior to striking. Regardless of the cause, the coins remain very difficult to find full red.

1888 Proof: Readily available in all PrRB grades; but very rare in RD grades. PCGS has graded only 33 1888's in Red with only 7 PR65RD's and 4 PR66RD's; NGC has graded only 5 total 1888's in Red, with 1 PR65RD and 1 PR66RD. Thus, the two grading services have graded only 13 total coins in PR65RD or higher. Arguably, the 1888 in proof Red may be the rarest non-variety date in proof Red as it is the single scarcest date in PR65RD and only the fact that there are 5 total PR66RD's between the two services prevents it from a claim of the rarest date in Proof red. Like the 1887, this is a very tough date to acquire in full red condition. Two Cameos of this date have been graded by PCGS with the highest being a PR66RD Cam. NGC has not graded any cameos of this date.

The mintage indicates that this is one of the more common dates in the proof Indian Cent series. However experience and the PCGS population reports show that this is a moderately scarce date over all, and an exceptionally scarce date in full red. Only 10 examples are graded PR64RD, with 4 PR65RD's and 4 in PR66RD. Like the 1887, this date commands a large premium equal in gem full red.

1889 Proof: Readily available in all PrRB grades; but very scarce in RD grades. PCGS has graded only 39 1889's in Red with only 13 PR65RD's and 8 PR66RD's; NGC has graded only 16 total 1889's in Red, with 4 PR65RD's and 2 PR66RD's. Thus, the two grading services have only graded 27 total coins in PR65RD or higher. Like the 1887 & 1888, this is a very tough date to acquire in full red condition. No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

There are clash marks clearly evident on both sides of [these coins]. This is found on all coins from this die pair. A high percentage of the proof issues in the 1880's show some type of a lack of quality control. It is common to find coins that were struck from known proof dies that were obviously struck only once, possibly on a high speed press. Although these coins will have mirrored fields, they will also have rounded edges and some striking weakness on the feathertips and lower hair curl. These were struck as proofs and included in the proof set sales of the year.

1890-1899 As a group these dates are moderately common in collectable grades, and particularly the later dates (1897-1899) are not considered scarce. The dates in the early 90's (1890, 1891, 1893 and 1896) are very hard to find as high grade examples and full RD coins are very difficult to find, with the 1890 and 1896, both being very rare in PR65RD and above.

1890 Proof: Readily available in PrRB grades, but rare in full Red. PCGS has graded 16 PR65RD's and but 2 PR66RD's; NGC has graded 11 PR65RD's and none higher. Thus, the two grading services have only graded 29 total coins in PR65RD or higher. This date is available in Cameo: Three Cameos of this date have been graded by PCGS all PR64RD Cam; NGC has graded no cameos.

1891 Proof: Readily available, but moderately scarce in full Red. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 1 cameo, a PR65RD Cam; NGC has graded 1 Red cameo, a PR64RD Cam and 2 PR64RB Cam's.

1892 Proof: This is a relatively common date and readily available in all grades. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 1 cameo, a PR65RD Cam; NGC has graded 1 cameo, a PR66RD Cam.

1893 Proof: Readily available, but moderately scarce in full Red. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded no cameos; NGC has graded 1 cameo, a PR64RD Cam.

1894 Proof: Readily available, but moderately scarce in full Red. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 2 cameos the highest being a PR66RD Cam; NGC has graded 1 cameo, a PR65RD Cam.

1895 Proof: Readily available in all grades. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 2 cameos, both being PR65RD Cam's; NGC has graded 1 cameo, a PR64RD Cam. Early die state examples have "orange peel" fields. Here is Rick Snow's description as to how this occurs:

After the dies are hubbed and the date is applied, the die is given multiple polishes with progressively finer and finer polish. The last polish given to the dies prior to being hardened gives the field a surface quite like a mirror. This is the deepest mirror attainable on the dies. When the die is hardened, the metal shrinks slightly creating a wavy effect on the polished surfaces. It looks somewhat like the surface of an orange. When you see orange peel on a proof issue you can be sure that it is one of the first examples struck from those dies. Later polishing to the already hardened dies will produce a flatter and shallower mirror.

1896 Proof: Readily available in all PrRB grades, but this is a very scarce date to locate in gem full red. PCGS has graded 9 PR65RD's and but 1 PR66RD; NGC has graded 9 PR65RD's and but 1 PR66RD. Thus, the two grading services have only graded 20 total coins in PR65RD or higher. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded no 1896 cameos; NGC has graded 1 PR65RD Cam.

1897 Proof: Readily available in all grades, but slightly scarcer in Red. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 2 cameo examples, the highest graded is PR68RD Cam, the single highest graded proof Indian Head Cent graded by PCGS (there are 2 1902 PR68RD's but they are not cameos); NGC has not graded any 1897's as cameos.

1898 Proof: Readily available in all grades. This date is available in Cameo with four Cameos of this date graded by both services: PCGS has graded 2 cameos with the highest being a PR67RD Cam; NGC has graded 2 cameos with the highest being a PR66RD Cam;

1899 Proof: Readily available in all grades. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 1 PR66RD Cam; NGC has not graded any 1899 cameos.

1900-1909 As a group these dates are, like the early dates in the 1880's quite common in collectable grades. However, the dates in the later 1900's (1904 through 1909) are scarce in high grade RD examples, with the 1904 having only 10 examples grade PR66RD between both services, and the 1907 being particularly difficult in any grade of RD. The 1904 - 1906, the 1908 and 1909 are perceived to be common dates, but they are somewhat undervalued in PR66RD and above due to their scarcity. Cameos are uncommon for these later date issues as the mint began to fully polish the dies prior to the proof strikings.

1900 Proof: Readily available in all grades. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has not graded any 1900's as cameos; NGC has graded a PR65RD Cam;



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1901 Proof: Readily available in all grades. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 2 PR66RD Cam's; NGC has graded 1 PR65RD Cam.

1902 Proof: Readily available in all grades. No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

1903 Proof: Readily available in all grades. No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

Proofs of this year were produced without any frost on the devices. The present example is known to be a very early die state due to the strength of the orange peel fields. This issue is always seen with the misplaced 0 and 3 digits in the denticles below the date.

1904 Proof: Readily available in all grades, but rare in PR66RD and higher with only 5 PCGS PR66RD's with a sole PCGS PR67RD; NGC has graded 5 PR66RD's with none higher. This is the scarcest date in high grade proof red in the 1900's. No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

Perhaps it is because of the existence of fine die finishing lines in the field on both sides. These are typical for this issue and should not limit the grade.

1905 Proof: Readily available in all grades, but somewhat scarce in PR66RD as are all of the dates after 1903. No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

Fine die finishing lines are present on the fields of both sides. Like many dates in the 1900's this is normal and is many times found on the earliest die state pieces.

1906 Proof: Readily available in all grades. This date is available in Cameo: PCGS has graded 2 cameo examples, the highest a PR66RD Cam; NGC has graded no cameo examples of this date.

Unlike the earlier and later dates, die finishing lines are not found on this issue.

1907 Proof: Readily available in all grades, but scarce in full red. No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

Very tough date. The lowest mintage date of the proof Indian Cents after 1878 with only 1,475 produced. This is a very early die state with deep mirrors with orange peel fields. With this issue when you have an early die state example, you will also find fine die finishing lines on both sides. These are typical for the issue and do not detract from the desirability of the coin or limit the grade. Die finishing lines tend to appear and disappear as the coin is turned in the light.

1908 Proof: Readily available in all grades No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

1909 Proof: Readily available in all grades No Cameos of this date have been graded by either service.

A very popular issue due to the change to the Lincoln design.

PCGS Registry set information:

If anyone is interested in putting together a high grade proof Indian Head Cent PCGS Registry set the following information will be helpful with regard to those coins that are considered high grade and therefore high point value coins. These coins will ultimately be needed to put together a top rated Registry set. Also, you should be aware of how PCGS determines the values of each coin in the proof Indian Head Cent Registry set: All cameo coins receive a 3 point bonus in addition to the grade value - so a PR65Cam coin is worth a grade value of 68; deep cameo coins receive a 4 point bonus - so a PR65DCam coin is worth a grade value of 69. RB coins receive a 1 point bonus - so a PR65RB coin is worth a grade value of 66; RD coins receive a 2 point bonus - so a PR65RD coin is worth a grade value of 67. Higher graded coins receive their respective higher grade plus any applicable bonus points.

With respect to the availability of high grade Indian Head Cents, both Copper-Nickel and bronze coins graded PR66 & PR66RD, the following is a summary of their rarity (Pops of 10 and lower) Note all PR66RB coins dated prior to 1878, and those dated 1887 through 1896 and 1903 through 1908 all have Pops of less than 10 examples graded. So any high grade proof Indian Head Cent set in PR66 and higher will be a real challenge.

Pr66RB Pop 0/0 dates:	1873, 1893, 1894
Pr66RB Pop 1/0 dates:	1869, 1871, 1878, 1890, 1891, 1904
Pr66RB Pop 2/0 dates:	1865, 1874*, 1903, 1906
Pr66RB Pop 3/0 dates:	1866, 1867, 1872, 1876, 1877
Pr66RB Pop 4/0 dates:	1868, 1870, 1888, 1889, 1896, 1900*
Pr66RB Pop 5/0 dates:	1875, 1887, 1892, 1905, 1907*
Pr66RB Pop 6/0 dates:	1895
Pr66RB Pop 7/0 dates:	1881*, 1908
Pr66RB Pop 8/0 dates:	1864*, 1898*
Pr66RB Pop 10/0 dates:	1902

(Dates with an * have higher graded examples. The dates between 1883 and 1886 are the most common, all having 20 or more examples graded in Pr66RB or higher)

Pr66 Pop 2/0 dates:	1861
Pr66 Pop 4/0 dates:	1860
Pr66 Pop 8/1 dates:	1863
Pr66RD Pop 1/0 dates:	1865, 1867, 1871
Pr66RD Pop 1/1 dates:	1864Br
Pr66RD Pop 2/0 dates:	1868, 1875, 1887, 1890
Pr66RD Pop 3/0 dates:	1866, 1869, 1873, 1890
Pr66RD Pop 4/0 dates:	1870, 1888, 1891, 1896
Pr66RD Pop 5/1 dates:	1883, 1904
Pr66RD Pop 5/2 dates:	1893
Pr66RD Pop 6/0 dates:	1872
Pr66RD Pop 7/0 dates:	1874
Pr66RD Pop 7/8 dates:	1898
Pr66RD Pop 8/0 dates:	1889
Pr66RD Pop 8/3 dates:	1885
Pr66RD Pop 8/8 dates:	1897
Pr66RD Pop 9/0 dates:	1894
Pr66RD Pop 10/0 dates:	1876, 1886 Ty1
Pr66RD Pop 10/4 dates:	1882

Proof Cameo Dates:

Pr65Cam Pop 1/0 dates: 1859
Pr65DCam Pop 1/1 dates: 1864CN
Pr65DCam Pop 1/2 dates: 1862
Pr65RD-Cam Pop 1/0 dates: 1864BR, 1875, 1876, 1880, 1891, 1892
Pr65RD-Cam Pop 1/1 dates: 1894, 1906
Pr65RD-Cam Pop 1/2 dates: 1869
Pr65RD-Cam Pop 2/0 dates: 1895, 1877
Pr65RD-Cam Pop 2/1 dates: 1874
Pr65RD-Cam Pop 2/2 dates: 1866
Pr65RD-Cam Pop 3/1 dates: 1878

Pr66Cam Pop 1/0 dates: 1860
Pr66RDCam Pop 1/0 dates: 1867, 1871, 1873, 1874, 1878, 1888, 1894, 1899, 1906
Pr66RDCam Pop 1/1 dates: 1898
Pr66DCam Pop 1/0 dates: 1864CN
Pr66Cam Pop 2/0 dates: 1863
Pr66Cam Pop 2/0 dates: 1864CN
Pr66RD-Cam Pop 2/0 dates: 1866, 1869, 1901
Pr66DCam Pop 2/0 dates: 1862

Pr67Cam Pop 2/0 dates: 1862
Pr67RD-Cam Pop 1/0 dates: 1898
Pr67RD-Cam Pop 2/0 dates: 1879

Pr68RD-Cam Pop 1/0 dates: 1897 The ultimate proof Indian!

How to submit coins for attribution

What should be submitted: Any premium value variety which is has not been previously listed in the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide. Any overdate, doubled die, repunched date, die anomaly (if it's dramatic enough to ensure collectability) and misplaced digit (provided it is dramatic enough) should be submitted.

How to submit a coin for attribution: There is no limit on submissions. All coins should be sent to Fly-In Club Contributor,

**Rick Snow,
P.O. Box 65645,
Tucson, AZ 85728**

All coins should be sent with a listing of the coins, their insurance value, and a return address and phone number.

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